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Chamberlain Says Congress Lacks Full Story on Cuba

The Kennedy administration is not giving Americans the full story of the Soviet buildup and demilitarization in Cuba, 6th District U.S. Rep. Charles E. Chamberlain charged in a speech here Saturday night.

A member of the House Armed Services Committee, Chamberlain said he believes witnesses appearing before the committee are reluctant to say any more than "they feel must be said."

American Legion Home at a 44th-anniversary celebration of the founding of the Legion and its Oakley Traynor Post 64.

"Time and again," Chamberlain said in referring to testimony before the committee, "meaningful facts have had to be extracted by probing interrogation.

"It unpresses me as a game to see how little can be told."

He said this prevented him from giving "greater reassurance with respect to Cuba."

He reviewed the Soviet demilitarization in Cuba and asserted:

"If missiles can be removed as quickly as they were, one cannot help but realize they can be returned almost as quickly."

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"The most significant fact of the military buildup in Cuba," he said, "is that this stronghold of communism is now firmly established and is being strengthened with each day."

He cited the recent report by the Central Intelligence Agency chief, John McCone, that many Latin Americans are being trained in subversion in Cuba. In this connection, he mentioned President Kennedy's promise that the United States will not permit Cuba to export subversion to other parts of the Western Hemisphere.

He said McCone reported that between 1,000 and 1,500 Latin Americans were trained in sabotage, guerrilla warfare, mob violence and other types of subversion during 1962 and that more have gone to Cuba this year.

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Chamberlain said he was "stunned" to hear Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara say before the Armed Services Committee that it was his opinion the Soviet buildup of defense weapons was not in violation of the Monroe Doctrine.

Although McNamara has reported that there were 17,000 Soviet military personnel in Cuba, Chamberlain said, "we keep hearing from time to time estimates that put that figure much higher."

"True, some may be leaving," Chamberlain added, "but all these reports are very vague."